

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 H-03 OMB-01 EB-11 CU-04 OIC-04

STR-08 COME-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 DODE-00 DRC-01 /188 W

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INFO ALL CSCE CAPITALS 55

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USDOCOSOUTH

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VIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL MBFR

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: SOVIET STATEMENT ON CBMS

REF: GENEVA 5579

1. AT NOVEMBER 2 MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON CBMS, SOVIET
AMB. MENDELEVITCH PROVIDED FURTHER DETAILS OF SOVIET
POSITION ON QUESTION OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS IN
REACTION TO COMMENTS MADE BY NEUTRALS AND NATO DELS ON
HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT (REFTEL). HE REITERATED VIEW THAT
PRIOR NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE GIVEN ONLY OF THOSE MANEUVERS
HELD IN SENSITIVE OR FRONTER AREAS AND ARGUED THAT NO
VALID OR SUBSTANTIAL ARGUMENTS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN ADVANCED
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AGAINST THIS POSITION. HE ACK OWLEDGED THAT SOME SMALLER

STATES HAD ARGUED THAT THIS CRITERION WOULD BE DISCRIMINATORY SINCE THEY WOULD BE OBLIGED TO NOTIFY NEARLY ALL MANEUVERS HELD ON THEIR TERRITORIES. MENDELEVITCH COUNTERED WITH ARGUMENT THAT A REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY MANEUVERS IRRESPECTIVE OF LOCATION WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST LARGE COUNTRIES SINCE THEY WOULD HAVE TO NOTIFY MORE MANEUVERS THROUGHOUT A MUCH LARGER AREA OF THEIR TERRITORIES. HIS SUGGESTED SOLUTION WAS TO STIPULATE A FRONTIER ZONE OR BELT, WHICH WOULD BE OF THE SAME WIDTH FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS, BUT WHICH WOULD ALLOW SMALL COUNTRIES SOME AREAS IN WHICH THEY COULD HOLD MANEUVERS FOR WHICH NO NOTICE WOULD BE REQUIRED.

2. MENDELEVITCH NOTED THAT SOME DELS FELT THAT LIMITING NOTIFICATION TO FRONTIER ZONE MANEUVERS WAS UNDESIRABLE BECAUSE THE MOBILITY OF MODERN ARMED FORCES MADE IT POSSIBLE EVEN FOR THOSE MANEUVERS HELD IN AREAS REMOTE FROM FRONTIERS TO CAUSE UNCERTAINTY AND TENSION. MENDELEVITCH CHALLENGED THIS VIEW, ARGUING THAT AN OFFENSIVE (SURPRISE ATTACK) COULD NOT BE MOUNTED FROM THE INTERIOR OF A COUNTRY BUT WOULD REQUIRE GREAT CONCENTRATION OF FORCES IN FRONTIER AREAS.

3. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF THE SIZE OF THE MANEUVER FOR WHICH PRIOR NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE GIVEN, MENDELEVITCH EXPLAINED THAT SOVIETS USE THREE BASIC FORCE-LEVEL DEFINITIONS: TACTICAL (UP TO AND INCLUDING ONE DIVISION), OPERATIONAL (SEVERAL DIVISIONS) AND STRATEGIC (VERY LARGE FORCE UNITS CAPABLE OF STRATEGIC, WAR-WINNING OBJECTIVES). HE SAID SOVIETS CONSIDERED THAT MANEUVERS AT OPERATIONAL LEVEL AND ABOVE SHOULD BE NOTIFIED. THEY THOUGHT A MANEUVER OF DIVISION STRENGTH COULD NOT REALLY GIVE RISE TO AMBIGUITY OR TENSION EVEN IN A FRONTIER ZONE SINCE IT COULD NOT ACHIEVE A STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE. MENDELEVITCH ADDED THAT HIS OPERATIONAL (MULTI-DIVISIONAL) LEVEL SHOULD BE THRESHOLD FOR NOTIFICATION WHETHER MANEUVER WAS NATIONAL OR MULTINATIONAL. ACCORDING TO THIS CRITERION, HE EXPECTED THAT NEARLY ALL MULTINATIONAL BUT ONLY SOME NATIONAL MANEUVERS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PRIOR NOTIFICATION.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE MODALITIES OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION, MENDELEVITCH SAID THAT IN CASE OF NATIONAL MANEUVERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES NEAR WHOSE FRONTIERS THE MANEUVER TAKES PLACE. IN CASE OF MULTI-NATIONAL MANEUVERS, NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALL CSCE PARTICIPANTS AND THIS SHOULD PROBABLY BE DONE BY THE COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES ON WHOSE TERRITORIES THE MANEUVERS WERE TAKING PLACE. HE THOUGHT BILATERAL, DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS SHOULD BE USED IN NOTIFYING NATIONAL MANEUVERS BUT THAT IN CASE OF MULTI-NATIONAL MANEUVERS THERE MIGHT ALSO BE SOME

CENTRALIZED SYSTEM POSSIBLY UTILIZING A FOLLOW-ON BODY SET
UP BY THE CSCE.

5. MENDELEVITCH'S STATEMENT WAS DUTIFULLY SUPPORTED
BY THE GDR, HUNGARIAN AND BULGARIAN DELEGATIONS. ITALIANS
AND BELGIANS STRESSED INTERDEPENDENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONS AND
NEED FOR CBMS THAT WOULD GENUINELY BUILD CONFIDENCE AND,
IN THE CASE OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS,
NOT BE HELD WITHIN THE NARROW CONFINES OF THE LIMITS SET
FORTH BY THE SOVIETS. NETHERLANDS REP COMMENTED VERY SOURLY
IN SUB-COMMITTEE THAT MENDELEVITCH'S STATEMENT HAD
STRENGTHENED HIS FEELING THAT SUB-COMMITTEE'S WORK WAS VERY
DISAPPOINTING AND THAT EAST/WEST POSITIONS ARE FARTHER APART THAN EVER.

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